



**PORTRAIT
HOMES**

A Pasquinelli Company

January 28, 2005

Cobb County Planning Division
Kim Sawyer
191 Lawrence Street
Marietta, GA 30036

Dear Kim:

I would like to thank you for all of your assistance not only with the current property that we are working on but also past it is always a pleasure working with you. The report that I have sent you is for the property in Acworth on Hickory Grove Road. New South Associates worked with us on the material and I believe that you will be pleased with both the photos and the information that was provided. If there are any additional items that will be needed or you have any question please feel free to give me a call and I will assist in facilitating any new or outstanding issues. Upon receiving this package some type of verification would be greatly appreciated either by phone or e-mail..

Sincerely,

Nichole Schultz
Project Coordinator
For Land Development



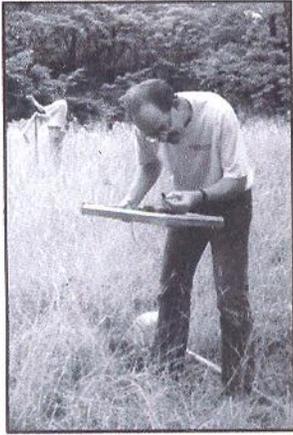
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Atlanta Division

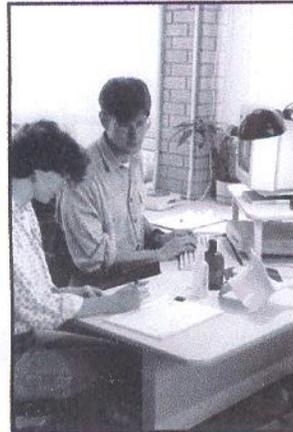
Nichole Schultz
*Project Coordinator for
Land Development*

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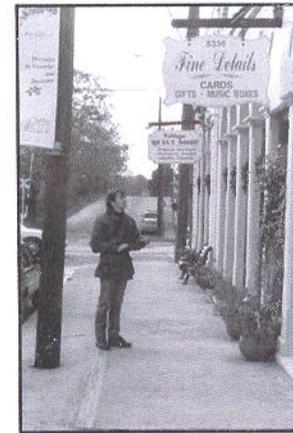
cultural resources survey



prehistoric & historic archaeology



historic research • preservation planning



architectural history • urban studies

NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES

Archaeologists • Historians • Architectural Historians

Monday, November 29, 2004

Ms. Nicole Shultz
Portrait Homes
3101 Towercreek Parkway, Suite 150
Atlanta, GA 30339

Re: Submittal of History Report for Property at 2021 Hickory Grove Road

Dear Ms. Shultz:

New South Associates is pleased to submit one (1) original and one (1) copy of the History Report for the property at 2021 Hickory Grove Road in Acworth, GA. Included is the history write-up, an architectural plan, and black and white and color photographs. Please call if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,
NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES

Steven W. Sheffield
Architectural Historian

6150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083 • (770) 498-4155 Fax (770) 498-3809
1534 Leesburg Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29209 • (803) 647-5983 Fax (803) 647-5987
P.O. Box 481, Mebane, North Carolina 27302 • (919) 563-4708 Fax (919) 563-1829
4316 Northwest 58th Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32653 • Voice/Fax (352) 371-9050
<http://www.newsouthassoc.com>

James Henry Prather Farmhouse Property Description

Background

The historic structure resides at 2021 Hickory Grove Road in Acworth, Georgia, in the 20th District of Cobb County. Referring to the 20th district map, the structure falls within the SE portion of grid 24 and is just west of present-day I-75. An overpass for Hickory Grove Road over I-75 lies just east of the property. Historical research, conducted by Mr. Steven Sheffield, reveals that the dwelling was originally built in 1918. The home was then purchased and occupied by James Henry Prather some time between 1921 and 1922, and was subsequently owned and occupied by descendants of Prather until today. Interviewed was Carolyn Kemp –who was raised in the house – and her daughter, Janine Turnipseed. Mrs. Kemp spoke fondly of her childhood memories from this home and of the improvements that her husband made to the structure during their marriage. The surrounding property, including the structure, has been purchased for development and all buildings are now slated for demolition. This report intends to be the lasting record of the historic house on the property.

Plan

The structure, an early 20th century vernacular farmhouse, falls under the late national style and is very similar in design to Victorian ells in Cobb County. The original single-story structure was constructed on the typical hall and parlor plan, with a central front entry and two opposing rooms. The structure is timber-framed and is based on an ell plan, with a side-gabled and front-gabled roof. The original structure remains relatively intact with several modest additions added to the rear of the building. The width of the original structure is 34' – 2". The depth of the longitudinal-gabled portion of the structure is 15' – 4". The depth of the latitude-gabled portion of the structure is 21' – 4". A straight brick chimney was centered on the rear of the front-gabled portion of the ell. As the kitchen and other additions were added to the structure, an additional flue was added to the former exterior of the chimney to accommodate a heating stove in the kitchen. A front porch, measuring 11' – 6" deep and spanning the entire width of the home, was also an early addition. The front porch has a shed roof. It is estimated that the two rear additions, with nested front-gabled roofs, were added to the rear of the home during the early 1940s. During this time the interior kitchen was also added. A second bedroom was also added behind the kitchen. Additional living space, including a den, bathroom and utility closet were added to fill in the ell plan under a shed roof. A new rear entry with a shed roof was added to this addition, and during the 1970s an elevated rear wood deck was also added. In 1971, the kitchen was expanded to receive a 3' x 8' bay window addition and breakfast area as a 25th wedding anniversary gift to Mrs. Carolyn Kemp from her husband. The kitchen addition was enclosed under a shed roof. Windows on this addition were tall solid glass with no panes.

Exterior

The exterior of the home was finished in modest vertical board-and-batten wood. The house has been painted several times but is currently red with white decorative folk-style wood

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shutters. Original windows were wood double hung sashes. Original windows were replaced with aluminum double hung sashes some time later and still exist on the structure. The roof material is not original to the structure. What was likely originally a tennplate roof on the original structure has now been replaced with asphalt shingle throughout the structure. Refer to attached sketch for details measurements of the structure.

Interior

Interior walls were constructed of mostly of locally harvested and milled pine boards, possibly on site. All interior walls were finished with wide pine lathing and no plaster. Walls at one time may have had some form of wood paneling. Lathing was attached to studs with wire drawn nails. Interestingly, the northeast room has been preserved in its original form, with no modern wall, ceiling or floor treatments added. The original plank floor is exposed and in very good condition. Despite modernization of other portions of the house, the structural integrity of this room is likely the best in the entire structure. The original rear door, now leading to the kitchen, is also intact. The door and all exposed wood have been stained in a tobacco finish. The door closes with a simple rotating wood latch. This room has been beautifully preserved and provides a unique opportunity to gaze upon the structure's original and simplistic interior treatment.

Other rooms were modernized and appear to date to the 1970s based on wallpapers, carpeting, trim and window treatments. Portions of the walls have deteriorated, exposing the original lathing. Revealed studs indicate that structural materials were produced on a mill saw. The structure was intact, so structural fastening details were difficult to ascertain.

The bathroom is in the shed roof addition in the rear of the structure on the west exterior wall. The utility room is in the same addition, along the south exterior wall. The bedroom addition is in the southeast portion of the structure, under the nested gable roof. The bedroom opens to a large den, which occupies the northeast portion of the shed roof addition.

The building was constructed on an elevated concrete foundation, but has no evidence of a cellar or significant crawlspace.

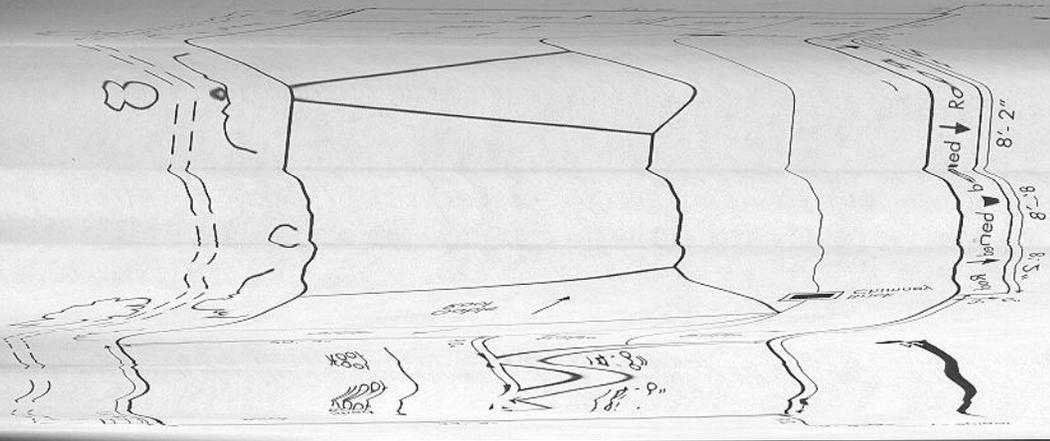
Building context

The structure was once part of an operating family farm and was surrounded by a barn and a corncrib. According to Kemp, the barn burned in 1974 and was replaced with a larger, modern one-story concrete block outbuilding in the same area. As this structure was not historic, no construction details were recorded. The property consists of a pair of wood outbuildings behind the modern outbuilding, in addition to the residence. The residence and outbuildings are surrounded by dense forest to the west and south, Hickory Grove Road to the north, and the I-75 right-of-way as well as I-75 to the east. The structure is landscaped with several plantings including an ivy ground cover to the west of the rear deck addition. A hydrangea and several small bushes surround the deck. An area of about 1 acre is cleared surrounding the property, and then becomes dense forest with mature pine. Evidence of children spending time at the house is given with a swing set in the backyard. Shade is provided to those who would utilize a round

concrete table and chairs arranged in the backyard under a mature oak tree. The driveway leading to the property is unpaved and meanders back to the outbuildings. A working spigot was found on the northeast portion of the property near the front porch. Testing revealed that the well was still active and produced water.

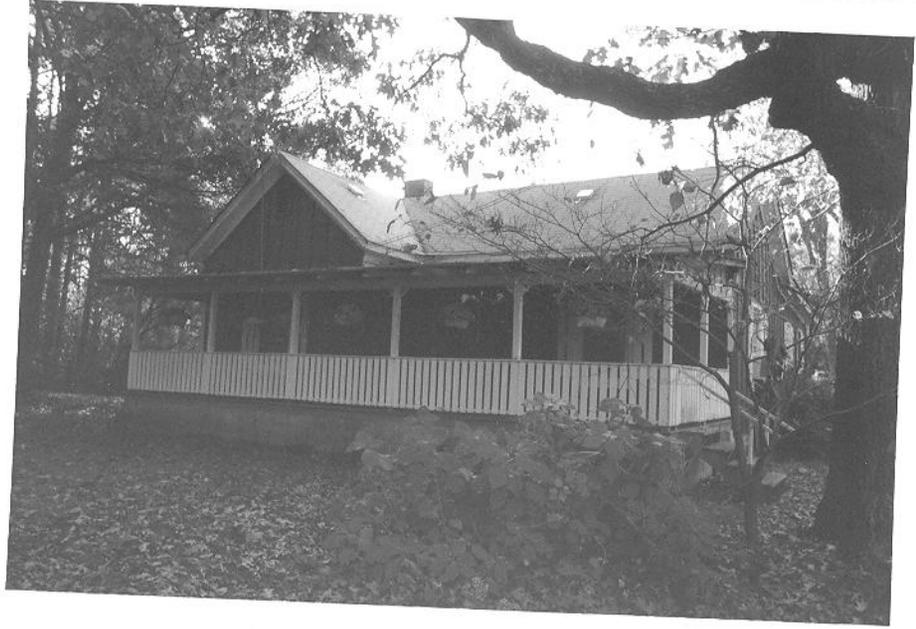
Summary

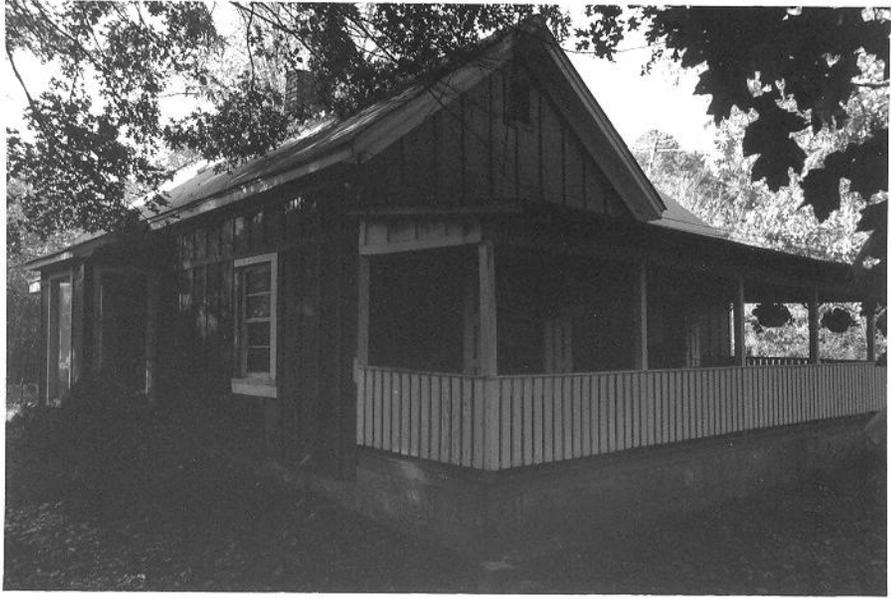
The Prather home, while modified with several additions in the last four decades, provides an excellent example of a modest folk farmhouse that typifies Cobb County. While the home is abandoned, much of the charm and landscape of the structure remains, as well as the lasting memories of hard work and family ritual. While the house is not deemed worthy of registration or nomination, it is indeed a testament to the agricultural contributions of those Georgians who lived and worked in Cobb County.











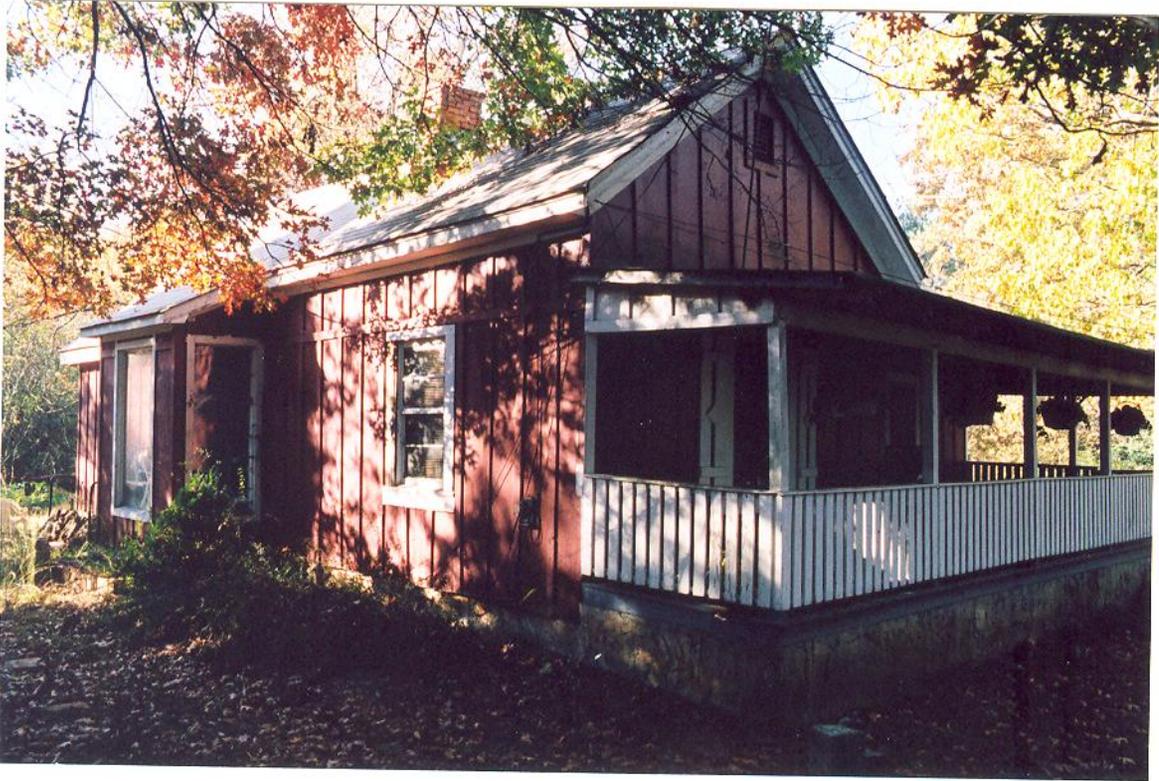


























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Project Coordinator
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